

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1671 – SB 2197

February 28, 2018

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Expands the definition of “certified counselor” under the *Uniform Debt-Management Services Act* to include an individual who is certified by a training program or certifying organization that is accepted by another state in which the provider is licensed. Requires the state and its residents be loss payees rather than beneficiaries of the insurance required under this statute.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

IMPACT TO COMMERCE OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (013953): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Establishes that evidence of accreditation by an independent accrediting organization includes certification by a certifying organization approved by the administrator as an accepted document accompanying application for registration as a provider of debt-management services.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §47-18-5502(6), a certified counselor must be certified by a training program or organization approved by the Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI).
- Passage of this legislation would require the DCI to accept accreditation or certification by an independent accrediting or certifying organization program, approved by DCI.

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- This may result in an increase of certifications for debt-management counselors in this state because it broadens what is acceptable training for service counselors; however, any such increase in certifications is estimated to be not significant.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all regulatory boards are required to be self-supporting over any two-year period. The Debit Services Businesses experienced a surplus of \$65,852 in FY15-16, a surplus of \$53,704 in FY16-17, and had a cumulative reserve balance of \$119,556 on June 30, 2017.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

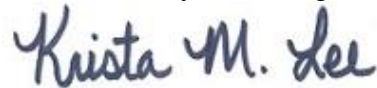
Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumption for the bill as amended:

- Requiring the DCI to accept certifications by an independent accrediting or certifying organization program may result in an increase of certifications for debt-management counselors in this state because it broadens what is acceptable training for service counselors; however, any such increase in certifications is estimated to be not significant and will have no impact on commerce or jobs in Tennessee.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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